

REMARKS

Claims 1-17 are pending and under consideration. Claims 1 and 13 are amended herein. Support for the amendments to claims 1 and 13 may be found in the specification at page 19, line 16-27, continuing at page 20, lines 1-6. Reconsideration is requested based on the foregoing amendments on the following remarks.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 101:

Claims 1-4 and 13-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as directed to non-statutory subject matter. The rejection is traversed to the extent it would apply to the claims as amended. Reconsideration is earnestly solicited.

Claims 1 and 13 have been amended to recite, inter alia a "storage medium readable by a computer," in substantial accord with the Examiner's suggestion. The Examiner's suggestion is acknowledged with appreciation. Claims 1 and 13 are submitted to be directed to statutory subject matter within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. § 101. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-4 and 13-16 is earnestly solicited.

Allowable Subject Matter:

The Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the allowance of claims 5-12 and 17.

Conclusion:

Accordingly, in view of the reasons given above, it is submitted that all of claims 1-17 are allowable over the cited references. Allowance of all claims 1-17 and of this entire application is therefore respectfully requested.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

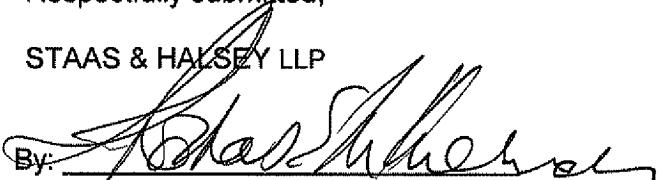
Serial No. 10/630,714

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

By:


Thomas E. McKiernan
Registration No. 37,889

1201 New York Avenue, NW, 7th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 434-1500
Facsimile: (202) 434-1501